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Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict

Letter dated 14 January 2008 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

On 19 July 2007, the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), examined your report on children and armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2007/391). Following its meeting of 18 September 2007, the Working Group adopted its conclusions on parties to the armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/AC.51/2007/17).

In follow-up to the recommendations of the Working Group, approved by the Security Council, I am entrusted, in my capacity as the President of the Council, to remind you of the mandate of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to protect children, as set out in Council resolution 1756 (2007), as well as of the letter from the Chairman of the Working Group dated 2 November 2006 reiterating the responsibility of MONUC to cooperate with national and international efforts to bring to justice perpetrators of crimes committed against children in situations of armed conflict, specifically Laurent Nkunda.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations for the measures described in his letter to the Chairman of the Working Group dated 15 December 2006, as well as for MONUC support for the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo through technical assistance for the *auditeurs militaires* in bringing an end to impunity for violations and abuses committed against children by military forces or armed groups present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as a follow-up to the conclusions of the Working Group on parties to the armed conflict of the Democratic Republic of the Congo of 8 September 2006 (see S/2006/724).

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the lack of financial resources allocated to reintegration programmes for children formerly associated with armed forces and groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to invite you to call upon the international community to increase funding for such programmes.

(*Signed*) Giadalla A. **Ettalhi**
President of the Security Council

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